

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for associating documents with articles in a shipping container, the system comprising:

an envelope having a generally flat body portion with an open end, first and second overlying flap portions extending from the open end and having oppositely facing exterior surfaces;

a shipping container having a main body and at least one cover portion that cooperates with the main body to enclose the articles;

the envelope being receivable between the at least one cover portion and the main body of the shipping container and at least one of the first and second flap portions being affixable to an exterior surface of the container.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the flap portions has an adhesive layer and the at least one of the first and second flap portions is folded towards the exterior of the container such that the adhesive layer contacts the exterior surface of the container.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the exterior surface of the container includes an exterior surface of the at least one cover portion and an exterior surface of the main body, and

wherein the at least one of the first and second flap portions is affixed to the exterior surface of one of the main body and the at least one cover portion.

4. The system according to claim 3, wherein the other of the first and second flap portions is affixed to the exterior surface of the other of the main body and the at least one cover portion.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the container further includes a first end flap portion and a second end flap portion; and

wherein the body portion of the envelope is located between the at least one cover portion and at least one of the first and second end flap portions.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein the at least one cover portion includes a first cover portion and a second cover portion, each cover portion includes an exterior surface; and

wherein the one of the first and second flap portions is affixed to the exterior surfaces of the first and second cover portions.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the container further includes a first end flap portion and a second end flap portion; and

wherein the body portion of the envelope is located between the at least one cover portion and at least one of the first and second end flap portions.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the container is a box.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the first and second flap portions include interior surfaces having indicator marks thereon.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the indicator marks point toward the open end of the envelope.

11. A system for associating documents with articles in a shipping container, comprising:

an envelope having a generally flat body portion with an open end, at least one flap portion extending from the open end and having an exterior surface continuous with an exterior surface of the body portion;

a shipping container having a main body and at least one cover portion that cooperates with the main body to enclose the articles;

the envelope being receivable between the at least one cover portion and the main body of the shipping container and the at least one flap portion being affixable to an exterior surface of the container.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein the body portion includes a front panel and a rear panel having exterior surfaces; and

wherein the at least one flap portion extends from one of the front and rear panels.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein the at least one flap portion includes an interior surface having indicator marks thereon.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the at least one flap portion comprises first and second flap portions formed opposite each other at the open end, the first flap portion extending from the one of the front and rear panels, and the second flap portion extending from the other of the front and rear panels.

15. The system according to claim 11, wherein the exterior of the container is an exterior surface of the at least one cover portion.

16. A method for associating documents with a shipping container having a main body with an exterior surface and at least one cover portion that cooperates with the main body to enclose a shipped article, the method comprising:

placing an envelope beneath the at least one cover portion with an open end of the envelope accessible at a side of the cover portion; and

affixing a flap portion of the envelope to one of the exterior surface of the main body and the cover portion of the shipping container to secure the envelope against removal from the container.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the flap portion includes an adhesive layer on an exterior surface and affixing the flap portion includes folding the flap portion towards the exterior of the container and bringing the adhesive layer of the flap portion into contact with the exterior surface of the container.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the exterior surface of the container includes an exterior surface of the at least one cover portion, and wherein affixing a flap portion includes affixing one of a first and second flap portion to the exterior surface of one of the at least one cover portion and the main body.

19. The method according to claim 18, further includes affixing the other of the first and second flap portions to the exterior surface of the other of the at least one cover portion and the main body.

20. The method according to claim 16, wherein the container further includes a first end flap portion and a second end flap portion, and wherein placing the envelope beneath the at least one cover portion includes placing the envelope between the at least one cover portion and at least one of the first and second end flap portions.

21. A method according to claim 16, further comprising placing at least one document associated with an article into the envelope.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein placing at least one document into the envelope occurs after placing the envelope beneath the at least one cover portion.

23. An envelope for associating documents with an articles in a shipping container having a main body portion with an exterior surface and at least one cover portion, the envelope comprising:

a body portion having an open end to receive documents, the body portion having an exterior surface;

at least one flap portion formed at the open end, the at least one flap portion having an exterior surface continuous with the exterior surface of the body portion; and

an adhesive layer formed on the exterior surface of the at least one flap portion for affixing the at least one flap portion to an exterior surface of the container when the body portion of the envelope is located beneath the at least one cover portion.

24. The envelope according to claim 23, wherein the body portion includes a front panel and a rear panel, the exterior surface of the body portion includes exterior surfaces of the front and rear panels; and

wherein the at least one flap portion extends from one of the front and rear panels, and the exterior surface of the at least one flap portion is continuous with the exterior surface of the one of the front and rear panels.

25. The envelope according to claim 24, wherein the at least one flap portion includes an interior surface with indicator marks thereon.

26. The envelope according to claim 25, wherein the at least one flap portion comprises first and second flap portions formed opposite each other at the open end, the first flap portion extending from the one of the front and rear panels, and the second flap portion extending from the other of the front and rear panels.

27. The envelope according to claim 26, wherein the first flap portion has a first shape and the second flap portion has a second shape that is different from the first shape.

28. The envelope according to claims 24, wherein the at least one flap portion comprises first and second flap portions formed opposite each other at the open end, the first flap portion extending from the one of the front and rear panels, and the second flap portion extending from the other of the front and rear panels.

29. The envelope according to claim 28, wherein the first flap portion has a first shape and the second flap portion has a second shape that is different than the first shape.

30. A package, comprising:

a container having an exterior surface and a cover portion, the cover portion being configured to at least partially close an opening in the container; and

an envelope comprising

a body portion configured to receive an article through an open end, the body portion being substantially contained within the container, and

a flap portion extending from the body portion, the flap portion being attached to the exterior surface of the container.

31. The package according to claim 30, wherein the body portion of the envelope is disposed substantially within the container and adjacent to the cover portion of the container.

32. The package according to claim 30, wherein the package comprises an end flap, the cover portion overlapping the end flap,

wherein the body portion of the envelope is contained substantially within the container between the overlapping cover portion and the end flap.

33. The package according to claim 32, wherein the cover portion comprises two sections disposed adjacent to each other, the two sections overlapping the end flap.

34. The package according to claim 30, wherein the flap portion comprises an adhesive layer and wherein flap portion of the envelope is folded towards the exterior of the container such that the adhesive layer contacts the exterior surface of the container.

35. The package according to claim 30, wherein the envelope comprises a second flap portion extending from the body portion, and wherein the exterior surface of the container includes an exterior surface of the cover portion and an exterior surface of a main body, and

wherein one of the flap portions is affixed to the exterior surface of the main body and the other of the flap portions is affixed to the exterior surface of the cover portion.

36. The package according to claim 30, wherein the flap portion includes an interior surface having indicator marks thereon.

37. The package according to claim 30, comprising documents relating to contents of the container disposed within the body portion of the envelope.